

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

## INTRODUCED BY SQUIRES

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA ACKNOWLEDGING THE PLANNED FORMATION OF A STATEWIDE TASK FORCE ON PAIN AND SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT; RECOGNIZING THE ROLE THAT WILL BE PLAYED IN THE PRIVATE FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF THE TASK FORCE BY THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY; AND ENCOURAGING THE WIDEST POSSIBLE DISSEMINATION OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE IN ORDER TO ENSURE ITS ACCEPTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION BY PRIVATE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND PUBLIC POLICYMAKERS.

WHEREAS, inadequate pain relief is a serious public health problem in the United States, inasmuch as the American Pain Foundation has estimated that 50 million people suffer from persistent pain; and

WHEREAS, pain is associated with lost wages and loss of productivity by American workers; and

WHEREAS, many factors contribute to uncured or inadequately managed pain; and

WHEREAS, all individuals with pain would benefit from having their pain thoroughly assessed and promptly treated; and

WHEREAS, pain is often accompanied by other symptoms that need to be managed along with the pain, including other symptoms arising in cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, appropriate application of excellent pain and symptom management practices, including the use of different treatment modalities, improves the quality of life for those who suffer from pain while reducing the morbidity and cost associated with untreated or inappropriately treated pain; and

WHEREAS, no Montana state agency has been given the mandate to address untreated pain and lack of symptom management as a public health problem; and

WHEREAS, there has been no comprehensive study in Montana of the prevalence of intractable pain in Montanans, nor has there been an assessment of the pain and symptom management practices of Montana health care professionals; and

WHEREAS, private funding may be available from the American Cancer Society and other interested groups to support participation in, staffing, management, and coordination of a statewide pain and symptom management study; and

1 WHEREAS, the study would be conducted by an advisory task force made up of over 20 members from  
2 public agencies and private organizations and individuals with experience in or a demonstrated interest in pain  
3 and symptom management issues, including representatives of the Montana Department of Public Health and  
4 Human Services, charitable societies, physicians, other health care providers, legislators, public assistance  
5 providers, advocates for voluntary health organizations, and individuals suffering from acute or chronic pain; and

6 WHEREAS, those public agencies, private organizations, and individuals have agreed to serve on the  
7 task force without cost to the state, which is of significance because many of the benefits resulting from the task  
8 force will be benefits to public policymakers and state agencies; and

9 WHEREAS, it is the intention of those who will participate on the task force to hold public hearings to  
10 gather information from the public on issues pertaining to pain and symptom management and to then provide  
11 advice and recommendations to appropriate public and private entities on pain and symptom management,  
12 including advice and recommendations concerning acute and chronic pain and symptom management treatment  
13 practices, state statutes and rules regarding pain and symptom management, and use of alternative therapies  
14 for pain and symptom management; and

15 WHEREAS, it is also the intention of those who will participate on the task force to provide advice and  
16 recommendations to appropriate public and private entities on acute and chronic pain and symptom  
17 management education provided by professional boards or others in the state, acute and chronic pain and  
18 symptom management needs of adults, children, and racial and ethnic minority and medically underserved  
19 populations, development of a drug repository for unused drugs used for pain and symptom management, and  
20 treatment of pain at the end of life; and

21 WHEREAS, it is also the intention of those who will participate on the task force to study and develop  
22 recommendations to state licensing boards on integrating pain and symptom management into the customary  
23 practice of health care professionals and identifying the roles and responsibilities of the various health care  
24 professionals in pain and symptom management and on the duration and content of continuing education  
25 requirements for pain and symptom management, on improving access to pain and symptom management in  
26 racial and ethnic minority and medically underserved populations, including the elderly population, and on  
27 improving access to pain and symptom management for children and adolescents; and

28 WHEREAS, it is also the intention of those who will participate on the task force to report on the activities  
29 of the task force and make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Director of the  
30 Department of Public Health and Human Services; and

1 WHEREAS, it is also the intention of those entities who will serve on the task force, in making the task  
2 force's reports and recommendations, to consult with additional entities, including academic institutions,  
3 voluntary health organizations not represented on the task force, advocates, consumers, relevant professional  
4 organizations, and other appropriate entities.

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6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
7 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

8 That the American Cancer Society be thanked and congratulated for its support of such a large  
9 undertaking as the planned task force on pain and symptom management.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature encourages all of those public and private  
11 organizations and private individuals who have agreed to send members to or serve on the task force to  
12 participate to the fullest extent possible.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature thanks all of those organizations and individuals  
14 especially because the members of the task force will serve without public compensation.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Cancer Society and the leadership of the task force  
16 are encouraged to give the task force's report and recommendations the widest circulation practicable so that  
17 implementation of the recommendations made by the task force become a collaborative effort between public  
18 and private bodies and organizations with the most influence on privately furnished health care and on public  
19 policy.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature looks forward to receiving the report and  
21 recommendations of the task force and implementation of the recommendations made by the task force because  
22 implementation will be important to the lives of those many Montanans suffering from acute or chronic pain  
23 whose enjoyment of life has been reduced by pain that has not been cured or effectively managed.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the  
25 Governor and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

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